Spring 2008

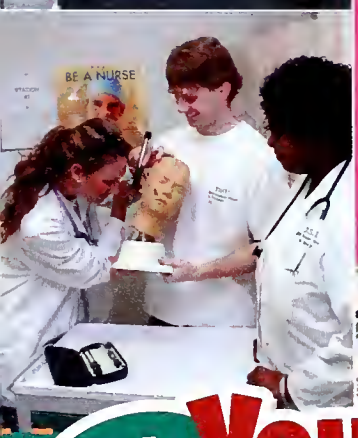
Delta State

THE MAGAZINE FOR DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Looking Back

John Grisham's life-changing moment at Delta State

Alumni, Have You Made Your Statement Today?



STUDENTS LIKE KATIE ARE...

"I had never heard of Delta State University until my senior year of high school. It was then that I decided to visit. When I got here, I knew this was where I belonged. The size of the campus was perfect for me. I knew I would be able to meet a lot of people and get involved without becoming overwhelmed. With the smaller-sized classes, I have been able to get one-on-one help that I wouldn't have received at a larger school. Coming to Delta State has been a great experience for me."

katie

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Delta State University

Delta State University

Delta State University Alumni Magazine

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On the cover: John Grisham and Dave "Boo" Ferriss in the Ferriss Museum on Delta State's campus. Photo by Will H. Jacks, wiljax Photographic Design. Cover design by Laura F. Walker.

President's Message

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Academic Year 2007-08 has been interesting and busy. We celebrated an engaging theme. We said farewell to one Chief Academic Officer and searched and found another. We recognized with an honorary degree the first Mississippian to win the Pulitzer Prize for poetry. We hosted an internationally recognized author who values his connection with the university so much that he called and offered his time to raise funds for our athletic programs. We launched a new marketing program. We created a well-researched college housing plan. And we're nearing the end of an era as we approach the retirement of our Director of Alumni Affairs.

It was the *Year of Delta Heritage*, and we celebrated the people and history of this region with one event after another. The folks in our Delta Center for Culture and Learning did a lot of the planning and managed most of the events. One highlight was the publication of a beautiful calendar with events from Delta history tagged to nearly every date. They'll do an up-dated version annually.

Provost John Thornell retired after more than three decades in a variety of roles at DSU. He provided six years of productive leadership as our Chief Academic Officer and served several months as Interim President prior to my arrival in 2003. His successor is Dr. Ann Lotven who brings a successful record of academic management to the position. She came to us from Texas A & M, Texarkana where she was Provost. Her career has also included several years as Dean of the College of Education at Oklahoma State University.

We awarded Natasha Trethewey the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, for her outstanding contributions to the nation's poetry literature. She won the Pulitzer Prize earlier in 2007. Mississippi is where she was born. She's now a professor at Emory University.

John Grisham was kind enough to visit our campus for the purpose of raising funds for the university's athletic programs. There's more about this internationally known author, his connections with Delta State, and his generous contributions in this publication.

Our new marketing effort is based on the theme, *Dreams Take Shape*. Preparation for the campaign began with months of research. Television commercials, billboard and print advertising, and the use of other media are all a part of the plan to draw students from a wider area. Cultivating additional support for the university is also a goal. Both the DSU Foundation and the Alumni Association are providing funding for this important project.

While all of Delta State's residence halls are in good repair, most need up-dating to appeal to the expectations of today's students. Two firms worked with representatives from all university constituencies to create a master plan for housing that sets a course for ambitious developments in this significant area of university life.

Last but by no means least, let me express the gratitude that all of us feel toward Mrs. Vicki Fioranelli for her years of service as the Director of Alumni Affairs. She is retiring as of June 30, 2008. Her legacy includes both a strong alumni organization and a wealth of good will among DSU graduates and friends everywhere. "Thanks, Vicki! You did a great job."

Sincerely,

John M. Hilpert
President

Alumni Message

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Another year has passed in the life of the Delta State Alumni Association and what a productive one it has been. The creation of Statesmen Park, just north of Horace McCool Stadium, has been a great success. Statesmen Park, provides a perfect venue for tailgating and we hope that gathering there for pre-game activities becomes a new tradition at Delta State.

The Alumni Hall of Fame, a second new initiative of your Alumni Association, inducted its first class at Homecoming, 2007. We created the Hall of Fame as a way to recognize and honor graduates of Delta State who have excelled in their professional or civic lives. If you would like to nominate someone for the Alumni Hall of Fame, please contact the office for more information.

Finally, due to the commitment, vision, and hard work of many, a Veterans' Memorial has been developed in the atrium of Jobe Hall. It is a beautiful setting and an outstanding tribute to our alumni who have served in the armed services. If you know someone that you would like to include, please contact the office with that information.

I encourage you to plan a trip to campus and experience the many new and exciting developments taking shape. The date for Homecoming 2008 is Saturday, November 1. I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Daye Dearing

Daye Dearing
President, Alumni Association

HALL OF FAME AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Induction into the Delta State University Alumni Hall of Fame is the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the DSU Alumni Association. Established in 2007, the Alumni Hall of Fame is extended to alumni and friends who have achieved professional distinction and made significant contributions at the local, national and/or international level and who have thus brought honor and distinction to Delta State University.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Individuals recommended must be graduates or attendees of DSU. Any individual or group may submit a nomination to the DSU Alumni Association Selection Committee by May 31. Nomination forms must be accompanied by a narrative of no more than two pages. A current resume or vitae of the nominee may be attached to the nomination form, and up to three letters of support may be submitted. While not a mandatory criterion, contributions to the advancement of the University and service to the University and/or Alumni Association may be considered. A person cannot nominate himself or herself. Receipt of all nominations will be acknowledged in writing by the Alumni Association and a more comprehensive document will be sent. Complete criteria and selection information can be found on the alumni web site at http://staging.deltastate.edu/pages/3306.asp.

First Delta State University Alumni Hall of Fame inductees

Nominations must be postmarked or delivered by May 31, 2008 for consideration for the November 1, 2008 Homecoming awards.
SUBMIT TO: DSU Alumni Association, Box 3104, Cleveland, MS 38733
For more information contact the Alumni office at (662) 846-4660 or e-mail alumni@deltastate.edu.

Lotven welcomed as new Provost

She began as all other 35 applicants did – a name at the top of a vitae, and in the end, she emerged as what President John Hilpert called, "the clear cut choice."

Dr. Ann C. Lotven was officially introduced as Delta State's new Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs late last year, following a four-month search process. She began her tenure on the Cleveland campus in February.

Dr. Ann Lotven

"I knew Delta State University was the perfect place for me when I first saw the community and first saw the university," Lotven acknowledged. "I met so many wonderful people. Everyone has been so gracious, so helpful."

"Delta State's size – the small campus – that gives students a certain experience; a comprehensive university, that's key for me," she continued.

She comes to Delta State from Texas A&M University – Texarkana, where she served as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs since 2004. Previous positions include Dean of the College of Education at Oklahoma State University from 1995 to 2004, Associate Dean for Administration at Texas Tech University from 1990 to 1995 and Professor of Education at Texas Tech University from 1976 to 1995.

"We are fortunate to have Dr. Lotven as our new Provost," Hilpert added. "She brings breadth and depth of experience to the position. She has been outstanding wherever she has served, and we expect her to be a strong leader in our campus community."

She and her husband, Dr. Brian Lotven, a consultant on education leadership, have four grown daughters and four grandchildren.

Fun in the Foam

A huge machine, producing enough soap-like bubbles to cover the street in front of the H.L. Nowell Union to a waist-deep level, and a disc jockey playing music enticed several hundred students to wade into the foam for fun and dancing. The Foam Dance Party attracted close to a record draw for students at a Welcome Week activity.

Pulitzer Prize winner receives honorary degree

In a ceremony she said made her "heart flutter" for Delta State University, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Natasha Trethewey was awarded the first honorary degree of her career as part of Delta State's 81st Fall Commencement.

A Gulfport native, Trethewey published her first collection, "Domestic Work" (Graywolf) in 2000. Her follow-up effort, "Bellocq's Ophelia" (Graywolf), debuted two years later in 2002; and her most recent anthology, "Native Guard" (Houghton Mifflin), was introduced in 2006.

In just those six short years, she established herself as one of the best and brightest, young poets on the literary circuit. The ultimate stamp of approval came in 2007, as Trethewey's "Native Guard" won the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry. She became the first Mississippian to the win the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.

At the ceremony, Delta State recognized over 380 graduates. Three doctoral degrees and 13 educational specialist degrees were conferred, while 106 master's degrees and 261 bachelor's degrees were awarded.

Natasha Trethewey

Dancing with the Delta State Stars

A special "Ballroom Dancing Finale" was held inside the atrium of Kent Wyatt Hall where 12 couples, including the instructors, Leslie Clark Shive, a 1999 Delta State graduate and former Miss Delta State University, and husband Ronald Shive of Cleveland showed off their talents to a standing-room-only audience. The ballroom dancing class was such a poplar offering that they had to offer two classes.

Norquist Nabs Top Spot

After being sworn into office during the Hurricane Katrina special session in 2005, David Norquist, ('89) hit the ground running. As the 2008 session of the Mississippi State legislature convenes, Norquist is settling into his newly appointed role as vice chairman of the House of Representatives' prestigious Ways and Means Committee, a seat usually reserved for senior members. Ways and Means is responsible for funding economic development, bond issuances, and taxation and exemption programs.

"My accounting degree from Delta State and my law background will serve me well in this role," Norquist said. "I am honored to have been named to this position by House Speaker Billy McCoy. By joining other Delta area legislators, it will give us a louder voice at the table and the ability to do many good things for the people of the Delta. Delta State means the world to me."

David Norquist

NEWSMAKERS

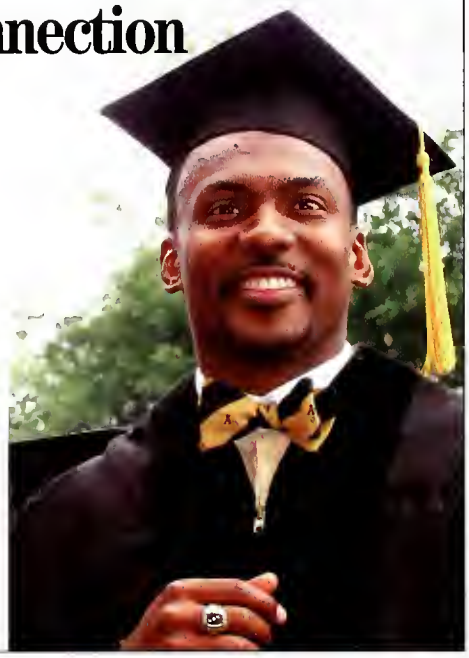
Karen McGough, a former member of Renaissance and Delta State student, teamed with fellow vocalist, Stephanie Gow to release "The Road", the debut CD for the Magnolia Rose Band. McGough credits her time at Delta State with cementing her love of music.

Billy Morehead ('84), Chair of Accountancy, CIS and Finance, was presented three awards from the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) this fall semester. He was the recipient of the Educator Award from the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the AGA, the Outstanding Leadership Award and the National Educator Award. Dr. Morehead was also selected President-Elect of the AGA.

John Robert Stringer ('04), an honors graduate in Commercial Aviation, was recently upgraded to Captain for Express Jet Airlines, one of the world's largest operators of regional aircrafts. At age 24, Stringer is currently the youngest captain in the company.

Tricia Walker ('74), Director of Delta State's Delta Music Institute (DMI), celebrated the release of her latest music CD in late October. The fifth full-production CD of her career, "Velvet" was inspired by a childhood spent "listening to my parents' big band records featuring great singers."

The Coahoma Connection



Just 35 minutes from the Delta State campus in Clarksdale, Coahoma Community College (CCC) has become home to 41 DSU graduates. It was recently reported that of the 347 faculty and staff members at CCC, nearly 12 percent are Delta State alumni, including current Dean of Student Affairs at CCC, Dr. Greg Hudson (pictured right). Hudson earned his bachelor's degree from Delta State in 1996, his master's in 1998 and his doctorate in 2005. He was most recently appointed to Delta State's Diversity Activities Committee, which will work to enhance diversity planning and programming on the Cleveland campus.

16 years strong

Elliott-Nowell-White Science Symposium returns to campus

For the 16th consecutive year, the Elliott-Nowell-White Science Symposium returned to campus in mid-October. Created by Dr. Robert Elliott ('59) to educate students and stimulate their minds just as his professors had during his time on the Delta State campus, the two-day event featured some of the best minds in science and medical research including, Richard S. Myers, Jr. ('91) (patent law); Dr. Brian Ghere (veterinary medicine); Dr. Manuel Penichet (surgical oncology); Dr. Marek Urban (polymers and high performance materials); and Dr. Frank Bastian (veterinary medicine).

Also included in the program was the Annual Elliott Program of Excellence Recognition Luncheon. The luncheon allows Dr. Elliott and his wife, Dr. Mary C. Elliott ('63), an opportunity to recognize and present awards to individuals and groups.

Delta State students (left) Nicole Carden and Logan Lynch also spoke on their experiences as Elliott Summer Research Interns. Each year, the Elliotts provide selected students the opportunity to learn alongside them in the Elliott-Elliott-Head Breast Cancer Research and Treatment Center in Baton Rouge.

Paint the

Delta State University's Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED), through its Breast Education and Early-detection Program (BEEP), "sounded the alarm" during the month of October in the name of breast cancer awareness and education.

"We really saw our charge as one to educate and raise awareness. We need women to understand the importance of early detection through monthly self-exams and regular mammograms," Deborah Moore, Director of the CCED, said. "Our theme for the month was to 'Enlighten Yourself.'"

The Center planned a week of activities at the start of the month, which included a kick-off event on the front stairs of the Bologna Performing Arts Center; "Paint the Town Pink" efforts, in which cooperating businesses painted their store fronts pink; a professional women's breakfast; a survivors and healthcare professionals panel discussion, which allowed attendees to not only hear

Kimberly Dickard and Deborah Moore display the two t-shirts designed by Dickard in conjunction with breast cancer awareness activities on campus.

Town Pink

Faculty, staff, and students participate in the "BEEP Walk" on the DSU walking trail.

uplifting stories of survival, but also to ask questions on how to safeguard against the disease, including early detection; and a final, culminating "BEEP Walk," which got participants moving on the Delta State walking trail.

In conjunction with all of the events, t-shirts, specially designed for the week by senior graphic design major Kimberly Dickard, were sold. Combined t-shirt sales, sponsorships and donations topped $7,000, all of which went to funding mammograms for uninsured and underinsured women of Bolivar County.

The planning committee has already started on plans for activities this coming October.

He makes you believe it's possible

"Don't be afraid to dream big," proclaimed Michael Retzer at the College of Business's annual lecture series, "Celebrating Academic Excellence. Retzer, the former U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania, was the keynote speaker and delivered an inspiring address, "Five Good Ideas."

A native of Greenville, Retzer's resume is impressive: he served as a captain in the U.S Air Force, developed a thriving chain of 20 restaurants, has been elected multiple times as Chairman of the Mississippi Republican Party, as well as serving on multiple boards and committees.

Using his own diverse resume as testament, Retzer urged the audience to test their own limits and reach for new heights.

"Don't be afraid to dream big. And do not be afraid to be the best. Be the best at one thing—just one thing. And then being good at everything else will come natural."

The Honorable Michael L. Retzer spoke with Jessica Douglass, a senior flight operations major of Hermitage, Ark., after his address.

His address drew an inspired reaction from faculty, staff, and students. As one undergraduate was overheard saying, "He makes you believe it's possible."

Fioranelli to retire from Alumni Director post

Vicki Fioranelli

Cliché? Maybe. But, true? Yes.

When it comes to Delta State loyalty and pride, no one bleeds more "Green and White" than Vicki Fioranelli, but that era is drawing to a close. Fioranelli will officially retire from her post as Alumni Director in June.

A 1968 graduate, Fioranelli's name is synonymous with Delta State, having served as a steady link between graduates and campus for nearly three decades. During her time at Delta State, she has led different areas, including career services, but she always faithfully returned to her roots in the Alumni House.

Her most recent tenure as Alumni Director will be remembered for the inaugural launch of the "E-Statesmen" electronic newsletter. Delivered to over 9,000 alumni's inboxes on the first Friday of each month, the "E-Statesmen" made its debut in Feb. 2006.

Her contributions are also evident in the establishment of the "Golden Circle" program, the establishment of the Alumni Hall of Fame, the continued and expansive growth of Homecoming and Pig Pickin, two of the Alumni Association's signature events, as well as increased involvement in the over 25 alumni chapters throughout the country.

In retirement, Fioranelli looks forward to spending more time with her family.

Statesmen claim GSC crown in Roberts' first year

By Travis Chamblee

The 2007 Delta State football team suffered a heartbreaking, season-ending defeat at North Alabama in the second round of the NCAA Division II playoffs. With 16 seconds left on the clock, the Lions scored a touchdown, defeating the Statesmen 20-17.

It was a bittersweet season for the Statesmen, who finished the season with a 10-2 record. Just two weeks earlier, the Statesmen won their first outright Gulf South Conference Championship and third overall with a 51-14 victory over the Boll Weevils in Monticello, Ark.

The season was filled with high-intensity and dramatic moments for the Statesmen. In the first round of the NCAA playoffs, Delta State dominated every aspect of the game, defeating Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Champion Shaw University 45-7 in Cleveland.

The Statesmen gave fans who were at home watching on television plenty to be nervous about, and plenty to cheer about, when they overcame a 28-point third quarter deficit to beat Valdosta State 35-31 in Valdosta, Ga.

Sophomore linebacker Lardester Hicks makes the stop against the Wolves of West Georgia.

Jamarcus Wiggins sent the visitors' sideline and stands into a frenzy with his last second interception in the end zone to seal the victory over the Blazers.

Wiggins was also the hero in the Statesmen's gut-wrenching 9-7 victory at home over the Reddies of Henderson State University. The senior jumped as high as he could and brought the pigskin back down to earth, blocking two Henderson State fourth quarter field goal attempts to secure the victory for Delta State.

The Statesmen opened the season with a 27-15 win over Southwest Athletic Conference Eastern Division Champion Jackson State.

Head coach Ron Roberts led the Statesmen to six straight wins, the first ever first-year head coach in Statesmen history to accomplish the feat, before Delta State lost 28-17 at North Alabama.

The Statesmen, who were featured on the GSC's Live TV Game of the Week three times during the season, hosted Southern Arkansas during their first appearance of the season in late September. Delta State held the Muleriders to only a second quarter field goal, sending them back to Magnolia, Ark., after a 28-3 victory.

For the second year in a row, the Statesmen led the conference in All-GSC selections, placing nine players on the First Team and four on the Second Team. Roberts was named GSC Coach of the Year for his efforts in leading the GSC Champions.

The Statesmen had no problem answering the pre-season questions which lingered around the offense. Junior quarterback Dedrick Wilson led the Statesmen rushing attack to the top of the GSC. The Statesmen offense finished first in both rushing offense (217.8 yards per game), and total offense (469.8 ypg). Garrett DeWitt stepped up in a big way in the absence of injured quarterback Brett Hyatt, throwing for nearly 1,300 yards and five touchdowns and rushing for four scores over the last half of the season.

EUBANKS MAKES MOST OF SEASON

By Travis Chamblee

Michael Eubanks finished his senior season in dramatic fashion. The Cleveland native had a record-setting campaign while leading the Gulf South Conference's top-ranked defense.

The soft-spoken, 6-foot-2, 225-pound outside linebacker led the Statesmen with 90 total tackles, 27 for a loss of 138 yards, and 12 sacks. The numbers were enough to set a new NCAA Division II record for career sacks, giving the stellar Statesmen a total of 39.0 throughout his career. He also established new GSC records for career sacks (39.0) and tackles for loss (69.4).

Eubanks was named the GSC Defensive Player of the Year for the second consecutive year, earned First Team All-GSC and Daktronics All-Southeast Region honors, and was a finalist for the Draddy Award, awarded to the most outstanding scholar-athlete in college football. Eubanks was one of just two Division II finalists for the All-Division award.

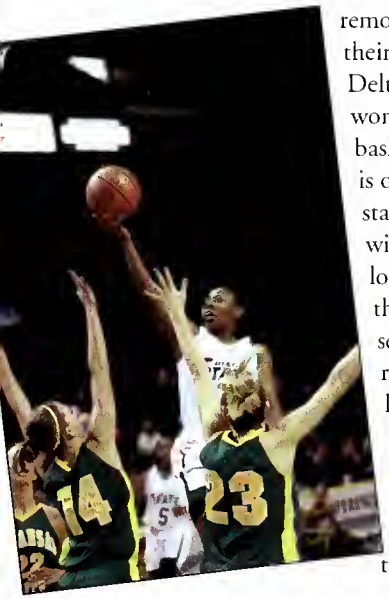
He was also named as a finalist for the Harlon Hill Trophy, an award given to the most outstanding athlete in Division II. Eubanks finished eighth in Delta State history with 240 total tackles throughout his illustrious career. He passed Jamal Johnson for the school sack record.

Michael Eubanks

Basketball teams producing memorable seasons

By Michael Nienaber

Coach Sandra Rushing has led her Lady Statesmen squads to the NCAA South Regional Final in both of the last two seasons. Unfortunately, both times ended in disappointment, first to GSC-rival Henderson State in 2006 and then to Florida Gulf Coast in 2007. Ten months removed from their last loss, the Delta State women's basketball team is off to a stellar start. DSU fans will have to look back to the 1989-90 season to remember the last time a Lady Statesmen team has gotten off to this kind of start. That season, of course, ended with Delta State's fifth national championship. The 2007-08 Lady Statesmen would like nothing better than to make it seven.



Kodak All-American Jennifer Rushing scores two against Arkansas Tech.

The Lady Statesmen have climbed into the top spot in the national rankings for the first time since the 2000-2001 season. Sandra Rushing will certainly have the Lady Statesmen, led by Kodak All-American Jennifer Rushing and a bevy of talented players, ready to face whatever challenge is thrown their way the rest of the season.

Coach Jason Conner posted a strong 18-10 record in his first season at the helm of the Statesmen. They qualified for the Gulf South Conference tournament in Southaven, but fell in the first round to Alabama-Huntsville. This season the Statesmen are looking to improve on that performance and continue their trek back to national prominence. Conner certainly found every way he could to challenge his young team this season. "Our schedule was set up to build character and team camaraderie, and I believe it did just that," said Conner.

Sophomore guard Chad Akins knocks down a jumper versus the Ole Miss Rebels in November.

That kind of teamwork is exactly what the Statesmen will need if they want to make it past the first round this year. It will be a scrap to the finish line to see how far the Green-and-White can go this season, but they seem to be peaking at the right moment to go far this season.

DELTA STATE'S FIRST SOCCER GRADUATING CLASS

By Daniel Hawthorne

In the four years since the Delta State University men's and women's soccer programs have been in existence, four players made it through all four years of the five a.m. practices, the grueling three-a-days in the off-season, and the strict educational requirements head coach Jim Allen ('02) places on his athletes.

L-R: Angie Libby, Allie Libby

James Richards, Philip Pearson and twins Allie and Angie Libby have left their mark at Delta State becoming the first graduating class in program history. Although this program has had seniors earn their degrees, these four players defined what it means to be a "Statesman and Lady Statesman."

L-R: Philip Pearson, James Richards

Seven former Statesmen & Lady Statesmen inducted into Delta State Sports Hall of Fame

Seven former Statesmen and Lady Statesmen received the ultimate athletic honor at Delta State University on Friday, April 18, as they were enshrined into the DSU Sports Hall of Fame at the annual induction banquet held at the H.L. Nowell Student Union. The thirty-eighth induction class included Reggie Barnes (Track coach, '79), Tim Edwards (Football, '90), Tim Harvey (Baseball, '80), Leslie McKiernon-Jenkins (Women's Basketball, '93), Darby Parham-Garland (Women's Swimming, '94), Herb Sanford (Tennis, '81), and Dave Townsend (Baseball, '96). "All seven of the inductees into the Hall this year are an excellent example of the talent and determination student-athletes have here at Delta State," said Bill Marchant, director of the Athletic Alumni Association.

Baseball and Softball to make run at GSC/NCAA titles

By Jim Ervin

The Delta State baseball and softball programs are looking to have banner seasons in the spring of 2008. Both squads have some of the top talent in the Gulf South Conference returning to take the diamond and conference by storm. If that wasn't enough, early season contests with the top teams in the south and south central regions have the makings for one of the most memorable springs in DSU history.

The baseball team finished the 2007 season with a record of 45-16 and an appearance in the South Central Region Tournament. Senior pitcher Justin Smith returns to anchor a rotation that has plans on returning the Statesmen to Montgomery for the first time since 2005. In 2007, Smith a native of Ridgeland, finished with 12-2 with a 1.83 ERA that earned him Second Team All-South Central Region honors.

Returning with Smith are two true anchors of the middle infield in the form of second basemen Clay Sartain and shortstop Devin Goodwin, both All-South Central Region players. Starting 61-of-61 games, the two combined to become one of the most prolific double play combinations in the GSC. Sartain, a junior from Horn Lake, finished the season with a team high 20 doubles while batting .365 with a .995 fielding percentage. Goodwin, a junior from Demopolis Ala., ended the season batting .350 with seven home runs and a .925 fielding percentage.

Senior All-American candidate Rickey Noland looks into the dugout for the call.

Senior lefty Sam St. Hilaire delivers a strike to the plate.

"Certainly all three of those guys had a huge part in our success last season," said Statesmen skipper Mike Kinnison. "And for us to have an even better season this year, we'll need more production out of those guys."

Much like baseball, the DSU softball program looks to build on a positive 2007 season. The "Diamond Ladies" finished the season 39-26 with a positive outlook to the future from several of the underclassmen. Second Team All Conference outfielder Brittany Tillery, of Starkville, finished the season batting .374 while going 32-of-33 in stolen bases. First Team All-Conference catcher Courtney Clark, of Sheridan, Ark., finished with a .366 batting average and eight home runs. All South Region shortstop Chasey Niebrugge, of Bonita Springs, Fla., finished with the team lead in home runs (10) and doubles (13) while batting .354 for the season.

"Those ladies mean so much to our program," leveled head coach David Kuhn. "I believe our newcomers will definitely have some good role models to follow."

AUTHOR MAKES INDELIBLE MARK ON DELTA STATE ATHLETICS

By Matt Jones

Thirty-four years after hearing that his dream of playing collegiate baseball for the Statesmen had come to an end, John Grisham returned to Delta State for a night of reminiscing with the patriarch of Statesmen baseball Dave "Boo" Ferriss. With over 600 in attendance, the event raised in excess of $100,000 for Delta State Athletics' Green and White Fund.

The fundraiser was a threefold event centered on the evening's program that included a reception in the atrium of Kent Wyatt Hall for event sponsors, where the author mingled with the group and took photos, and a reception inside the Bologna Performing Arts Center for those purchasing general admission tickets. After the main program the action reached a frenetic pace when auctioneer Chuck Cage hit the stage for the night's finale. Over 20 items were auctioned. Dr. Pennie Wright of Cleveland claimed the event's biggest prize, the opportunity to have his name included in Grisham's next novel. The item closed at $15,000.

Donated items to the auction included a baseball autographed by Hall of Famers Ted Williams and Bob by Doerr and an Atlanta Braves jersey penned by Chipper Jones, Tom Glavine and John Smoltz. When Cage closed the auction, over $35,000 had been raised for Statesmen and Lady Statesmen athletics.

Coach Dave "Boo" Ferriss presents John Grisham with a DSU baseball jersey.

It's hard to pinpoint the exact figure Grisham's visit to the campus generated for the program, but it is not hard to see the indelible mark his generosity has made.

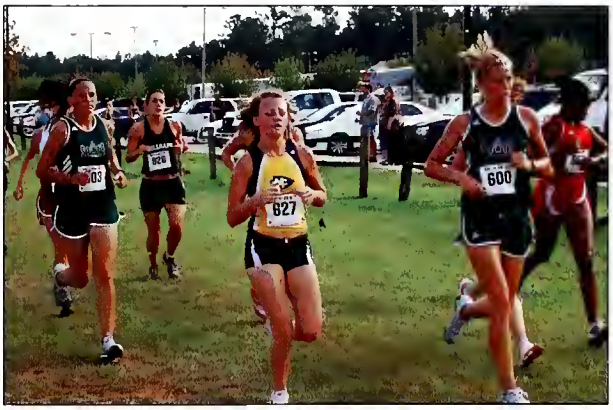
Olympic Sports Report: X-Country, Golf, Swimming & Diving

Senior Jennifer Artichuk races for the finish at the DSU Aquatics Center. The three-time All-American is having a banner senior year.

By Matt Jones

Head Coach Doug Pinkerton ('97) and the Lady Statesmen Cross Country team wrapped up another successful season with a 12th place finish at the Gulf South Conference Championships. Senior Natasha Smith paced the Lady Statesmen with a 28th place finish in a time of 20:56.64. Two weeks later, Smith would compete in the NCAA Southeast Regionals and place 86th out of 190 runners.

"We had a solid season, but fell short on some of our goals," said Pinkerton. "Natasha ran hard for us all year and finished her career as one of the greatest performers we've had in this program."



Chasey Niebrugge (L) and Brittani Adcox (R) cross the finish line at the USM Golden Eagles Cross Country Invitational.

The Statesmen golf team concluded the fall portion of their schedule with two top five finishes in their final two tournaments. Delta State finished second in the annual Darrell Foreman Classic, hosted by the Statesmen, with a two-round 582. The Statesmen would claim a fourth place finish in the rain-shortened Indian Bayou Classic hosted by North Alabama on Oct. 21.

"The guys have improved each and every tournament," said head coach Sam Dunning. "We have a deep and talented team this year."

Head Coach Brian Hein ('99) and the Swimming and Diving teams have gotten off to a great start this season. Led by returning All-Americans Jennifer Artichuk and Fernando Reis, the Lady Statesmen and Statesmen are poised to make a run at the New South Intercollegiate Conference and NCAA titles.

"We have a veteran team with lots of leadership ability," said Hein. "Our schedule is one of the toughest in the nation and I believe that the competition will have us ready come late February."

SPORTS SHORTS

Delta State names stadium

On Saturday, Oct. 6, Delta State University recognized Horace L. McCool ('52), one of the greatest collegiate head coaches in Mississippi football history, by officially naming the stadium in McCool's honor. The new name of Delta State's football facility is now Travis E. Parker Field at Horace L. McCool Stadium.

McCool (left) with football's head coach Ron Roberts.

Former Statesman receives ultimate honor

Former Statesman great Troy Ricks ('41) received the state's top honor for an athlete last summer with his induction into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. Ricks played two seasons for the Statesmen basketball team and in back-to-back NAIB Tournament appearances, Ricks scored 105 points, a national record at that time. Ricks was inducted into the DSU Sports Hall of Fame in 1973 and named to the DSU Coaches Hall of Fame in 2002.

Troy Ricks during his playing days.

Kinnison awarded Ferriss Influence Award

Head baseball coach Mike Kinnison ('78) is the latest recipient of the Mississippi Fellowship of Christian Athletes' Dave "Boo" Ferriss Influence Award given this past August. The award is given annually to a current or former coach, from the state of Mississippi, who has been actively involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and also possesses a strong Christian influence.

Road of Success Paved by Others

"How many times have you received help from someone that made a tremendous and positive impact in your life? This same care and support are alive and well at Delta State University in the form of scholarships. Alumni, family and friends of DSU continue to make a difference in the Road of Success for our students. Just look at what just a few of our many scholarship recipients say…"

DREW BARHAM:
My experience at Delta State has been awesome. I've had the opportunity to get involved in and serve as an officer and leader in many different organizations. Through my student employee position in the Alumni-Foundation office, I have seen first hand the dedication of the office to the students of DSU. If it weren't for financial assistance through scholarships I have received, such as the Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni scholarship, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to learn and grow here, both in and out of the classroom.
–(Marketing major from Coldwater, MS)

ANDREA BARHAM:
Receiving the Bedwell scholarship during my freshman year of college at Delta State was not only an honor, but helped in paying for my school expenses. I never knew how expensive college was until I actually experienced it. Without the help of the scholarships I received, paying would not have been easy. Now I can finish my education and pursue my career in teaching. I am so grateful for the Bedwell scholarship.
–(Elementary Education major from Coldwater, MS)

YOKEYNA WILLIAMS:
I am a single mother of a three-year old who is my motivation for wanting more out of life. I want to instill in him that, with education, his dreams can be unlimited. At Delta State my dreams are unlimited. I am so grateful for the Charlene Boyd Scholarship that I received. Because of this scholarship, I did not have to drop out of school. I was able to continue my studies here at Delta State.
–(Elementary Education major from Clarksdale, MS)

Yokeyna Williams and Morgan Freeman, actor and DSU honorary degree recipient

CHESSIE CLARK:
Delta State is my home away from home. I have received the Thompson Journalism scholarship that is allowing me to pursue my dreams. I do not know exactly where my future will lead, but I do know I have the chance to excel because of the graciousness of those alumni who loved their years at Delta State and decided to give back to the place that helped mold them into the people they are today. I am ever so thankful for those who have provided scholarship opportunities for students like me.
–(Journalism major from Water Valley, MS)

SABRINA WOODARD:
Receiving the Tri-State Educational Foundation scholarship has been an honor. It has had an influence on my life and my education. It is a reward for my academics, doing my best in school and maintaining a GPA of 3.65. Being awarded the scholarship has also helped me get an education so I can make something of myself. I am so thankful for those who have given back to the University.
–(Nursing major from Michigan City, MS)

DOMINIQUE MILTON:
I have been a member of the Student Alumni Association (SAA) for three years. My second year as a member, I was elected to an officer position as Historian. My job included taking photographs during meetings, SAA events, and taking part in assigned activities hosted by the SAA. Receiving the Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni scholarship lets me know that I am appreciated for my services in SAA.
–(Nursing major from Batesville, MS)

MONIQUE MILTON:
When I enrolled in Delta State's Child Development program, I knew I had a special interest in young children. Being a recipient of the Arthur and Velma Hamilton scholarship is certainly an honor to me. I know there are not a large number of scholarships specifically for Child Development majors, so to be picked as a recipient for this scholarship makes me feel good. I plan to use it to purchase educational materials to use while teaching in the classroom where I plan to complete my internship next semester. This will make it the gift that keeps on giving.
–(Child Development major from Batesville, MS)

For more information on how YOU can make a difference, please contact Ann Giger at agiger@deltastate.edu or 662-846-4710.

Guaranty Bank Challenge

Doug Springer, ('74), President of Guaranty Bank & Trust in Cleveland, MS.
© Will H. Jacks, wiljax Photographic Design

Can you imagine? This is the day you have been waiting for all throughout the past 12 years…graduation from high school! You are ready to make a difference in your life, start your dream, and begin your journey of success. But then it happens: a hurricane wipes away everything in the world you and your family own, a parent loses a job and there is no money, an illness strikes your family, or both parents work and yet there is still not enough money for college even though you qualify for admission. What do you do? We cannot let educational opportunities pass people by just because of situations like these.

Think about your college days. Days of excitement. Life altering lessons. Teachers impacting your life. Activities such as sports, marching with the band, cheering in the stadium, attending Homecoming. Hugs at graduation. You have the chance to provide this to others…the life altering experience and your legacy living on.

The team at Guaranty Bank & Trust challenge you to make a difference by contributing to *The Delta State Fund*.
© Will H. Jacks, wiljax Photographic Design

Doug Springer and Guaranty Bank and Trust are doing this exact thing and Doug is challenging YOU, as an individual and as a business, to also make a difference. Both Springer and Guaranty Bank contribute to *The Delta State Fund*, and Doug and his team challenge you and your business to join one of the top-giving clubs. Through your contribution to *The Delta State Fund*, you will be providing scholarships for deserving students, additional educational opportunities for faculty and staff, and construction of state-of-the-art facilities, just to name a few.

Please consider changing the lives of those at Delta State, in the Delta, in Mississippi and beyond. This all begins with one person and that is YOU. Contact Reed Abraham, Director of Development at Delta State University (662) 846-4708 or e-mail rabraham@deltastate.edu and tell him YOU want to make a difference!

Six-figure gift:
Dave Heflin Professorship in Outdoor Recreation established

In 1982 the Division of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (HPER) at Delta State University had 11 full time faculty members, one of whom was Mr. Dave Heflin. Today, Mr. Heflin bears the title Assistant Professor Emeritus of HPER. Dave is a legendary figure at Delta State University and has a loyal following of former students.

During his tenure, he developed and promoted the existing major in recreation while he simultaneously taught students to appreciate nature and to live a healthy lifestyle by embracing all of the opportunities the great outdoors offers them. Dave has led hundreds of white-water rafting, camping and snow skiing trips with students in recreation courses, fondly called the Outback Kayak Club.

Since Mr. Heflin and other professors in the division have retired, it has been a constant challenge to fill their positions. But Dave's works will now live on, as a substantial six-figure challenge gift was recently initiated to create the Dave Heflin Professorship in Outdoor Recreation.

This gift will allow for Heflin's tradition to continue through the reinstatement of worthwhile recreation courses that were once offered. These recreation courses will provide a chance for interaction and learning that cannot be duplicated in any other course. By hiring a new faculty member for the Dave Heflin Professorship, opportunities will be created to recruit new students who are interested in pursuing an emphasis in recreation while also offering extensive outdoor activities to current students in all majors. None of this would be possible without the generosity shown thus far, and your support is needed to further develop and launch the Heflin Professorship.

You are invited to show your support of this Professorship and your admiration of Dave Heflin by stepping up to the challenge set forth. Those who wish to financially support the Dave Heflin Professorship in Outdoor Recreation should contact Reed Abraham at the Delta State Foundation by emailing rabraham@deltastate.edu or calling (662) 846-4708.

First *The Delta State Fund* donor gala held

YoKenya Williams thanked the donors and stated, "Without the scholarship provided by donors to *The Delta State Fund*, I would have dropped out of school!" Donor David Lindh of Gulfport stated, "It is gratifying to help students like YoKenya, and an easy decision for me to make a gift, especially when I learned that she was working two minimum wage jobs to pay her way."

On November 15, 2007 alumni and friends who had given $250 or more during the last two fiscal years to *The Delta State Fund* were honored at a Donor Gala at the Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni-Foundation House.

"*The Delta State Fund* primarily supports student scholarships and faculty development opportunities," said Missy Pearce, Director of Annual Giving. "The first-ever gala for those who gave to *The Delta State Fund* is the Foundation's way to say thank you for their support and an opportunity to meet students and faculty who benefited from their generosity. I invite everyone to join one of the Foundation's annual giving clubs."

The Delta State Fund's Giving Clubs recognize annual donors who have distinguished themselves in support of the University. In recognition of the importance of annual contributions, the University established special membership levels to honor annual contributors, alumni, parents and friends who join *The Delta State Fund* Giving Clubs by making an annual gift to *The Delta State Fund* and in doing so help to build a stronger Delta State University.

Keith Fulcher, Alumni-Foundation Executive Director, applauds the work of the Alumni-Foundation staff in raising money through *The Delta State Fund* for Williams and Boyette.

Christin Boyette, of Greenville, (center) thanks Dr. Tommy Sledge (left) and Dr. Bob Ragan (right) for their gifts to *The Delta State Fund*. Sledge is chair of the Commercial Aviation department. Ragan, a dentist in Cleveland, received the Gladys Castle Friend of Delta State Award at Homecoming 2007. Boyette, a freshman, was a recipient of a scholarship provided by their gifts.

YoKenya Williams (right) thanks Mrs. James (June) McLendon for her membership in The Delta State giving clubs, which provided scholarship money for her to continue her education. Williams will graduate in December 2008 with a degree in elementary education.

JOIN

one of our Giving Clubs!

Make Your Gift Today!

PRESIDENT'S CLUB ..... $10,000 or more
Named in honor of the presidents of Delta State who have served since the University's founding in 1924: James W. Broom, William M. Kethley, James M. Ewing, Aubrey K. Lucas, Kent Wyatt, David Potter, and John M. Hilpert.

STATESMEN'S CLUB ..... $5,000 to $9,999
Named in honor of the official mascot of Delta State. The "Statesman" was officially adopted in 1975.

FOUNDER'S CLUB ..... $2,500 to $4,999
Named for the men and women who founded Delta State Teachers College. The first planning meeting was held September 1922 when Mr. J.C. Roberts credited the idea of a Teacher's College in Cleveland to Mr. A.K. Eckles, then Bolivar County Superintendent of Education.

DEAN'S CIRCLE..... $1,000 to $2,499
Named in honor of all former Deans of the University, beginning with Dean William H. Zeigel, the first academic dean of Delta State Teachers College.

UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATE..... $500 to $999
Named in honor of all former faculty and staff who have served the University for the past 81 years and who have seen the oak trees on the Quadrangle grow from small saplings to mighty giants.

PARTNER..... $250 to $499
Named in honor of alumni and friends who "partner" with Delta State's Alumni-Foundation Office to raise private funds for the support of the University's students, faculty and staff.

DIRECTOR'S CLUB..... $100 to $249
Named in honor of the directors of Delta State University's Alumni-Foundation since its founding in 1930: Gladys Castle, H. L. Nowell, Kent Wyatt, Dave "Boo" Ferriss, Hugh Ellis Walker, Don Skelton, and Keith Fulcher.

HERITAGE CLUB ..... $25 to $99
Named in recognition for the University's academic, political, economic, and social contributions to the Delta, the state of Mississippi, and the Nation.

*Young Alumni Club reserved for those who make gifts at any level and who graduated 15 years ago or less.

It's simple. Just complete the form and return it to the address below.

Full Name: _____

Complete Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Employer: _____ Do you work for a matching gift company: _____

Please accept my gift of $ _____ Charge to: ( ) Visa ( ) MasterCard

Account Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

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Please make checks payable to: DSU Foundation • Box 3141 • Cleveland, MS 38733
or Pay Online at www.deltastate.edu and click on the "Donate" button.

Sure-Shot

South African alum starts safari hunt business in homeland

By Rori Eddie Herbison

Louis Steenkamp (far left) and his brother, Lukie (far right), run Sofala Safaris in South Africa. The pair pose with hunters who took an Eland, the largest antelope specie in the world.

In 1998, a then 19-year-old Louis Steenkamp boarded an international flight, traveled more than 22 hours by air and landed in Jackson, Mississippi. The Pretoria, South Africa native then traveled another two hours by car, with his lengthy journey ending in Cleveland, on the campus of Delta State University.

Almost 10 years later, Louie, as he would come to be known "in the States," still smiles, every time he thinks of that first trek to the mainland.

"As a kid in South Africa, you grow up dreaming of coming to the United States, especially me because I was a tennis player," he explained from his Jackson residence. "The opportunities to pursue the sport I loved were just so much better here in America. I had to come."

A highly-touted men's tennis recruit, Steenkamp seized the opportunity to play collegiately and enjoyed a successful four-year run with the Statesmen. He earned First-Team All-Gulf South Conference honors in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 – one of few tennis student-athletes (male or female) to do so.

But, it is not the aces on hard court that Steenkamp remembers most from his time at Delta State, rather it's the people. "I was fortunate to find a Christian community where the people were always so personable. I think folks looked out for me because they expected me to be in such (culture) shock. But, I had no preconceptions. I came (to America) with a blank slate."

Today, Steenkamp is hoping Americans will show that same openness, that same "blank slate" to his homeland, as the 2001 business management graduate launched his own safari hunt and guide business, Sofala Safaris, in 2005.

"It started innocently enough," he joked. "You have to understand when I came to the States, I was so blessed to find God had not put me in a 'concrete jungle,' but instead I was surrounded by nature. I loved the rural environment of Cleveland and Bolivar County. I grew up in the South African bush, that's what I was used to."

What he's leaving out in that thought is that he grew up in the South African bush hunting. What he's neglecting to point out in that thought is the fact that at age 10, he "took" his first trophy – a kudu bull with 52.8 inch spiral horns, one of largest records in South Africa.

With this proven record and unbridled enthusiasm for the outdoors, Steenkamp was a natural fit with the hunting-crazed sportsmen of the Mississippi Delta. "I made friends – hunting buddies – very easily, and after I graduated, I kept in touch with many of them. For the four years I was in school, I kept telling them I had to repay their hospitality by taking them hunting in my homeland."

One group of hunters took Steenkamp up on his offer and, soon after, another group did the same. "Right now, it (the business) has all been word of mouth," he boasted, having just booked his tenth group's reservation.

The testimonials on the Sofala Safaris website (www.sofalasafaris.com) only corroborate the increasing business, as one hunter from Clinton attested, "I've enjoyed hunting for 25 years, but my most exciting day's hunting was this year at Sofala. No effort was spared to make our hunt successful."

> "You learn to make the most of the hunt, on so many levels – the appreciation of nature, of God's creatures, of the company you're sharing."

Another satisfied outdoorsman lauded, "Louis promised my father and me a good hunt and he did not disappoint. The hunting was great. Each day, we both saw several different species."

Family-run, Sofala Safaris is a year-round operation, with Louis booking the American clients during the States' spring and fall months (May - September) and his brother, Lukie, operating the over 25,000 acre spread.

"The weather runs different in South Africa, so what we think of as winter – November through February – here in Mississippi is actually summer back there," Steenkamp explained. "It's those subtle differences we have to teach the American hunters."

But the married tennis pro at River Hills Club of Jackson is more than qualified to educate the "State-side sportsman" the differences. He was taught by what he calls, "one of the best in the business, my grandfather, Louis Botha.

"He was, by far, my biggest role model – in everything, not just hunting. He used our hunting outings to teach so many life lessons," Steenkamp offered. "He would send us out to the bush with one bullet in our gun and say, 'It's your choice whether you come back with something.'"

That lesson paid off early and often in Steenkamp's hunting career. "You learn to make the most of the hunt, on so many levels – the appreciation of nature, of God's creatures, of the company you're sharing. You learn to appreciate your place in the 'whole picture.'"

And, Steenkamp clearly sees his "whole picture" plan, sharing, "My goal, or my vision to say it better, is to open up a Christian counseling center (targeted mainly at youth) in South Africa. But really, I want to help whomever needs that help.

"Long term, I'd like to open a boy's school; and, of course, Sofala Safaris will aid in funding all of this," he smiled. "I know it's a big goal with a lot of obstacles."

But, he also knows when he takes aim, he rarely misses.

Steenkamp, at age 10, with one of his first trophies, a kudu bull, and more importantly, with his beloved grandfather, Louis Botha.

CURVE

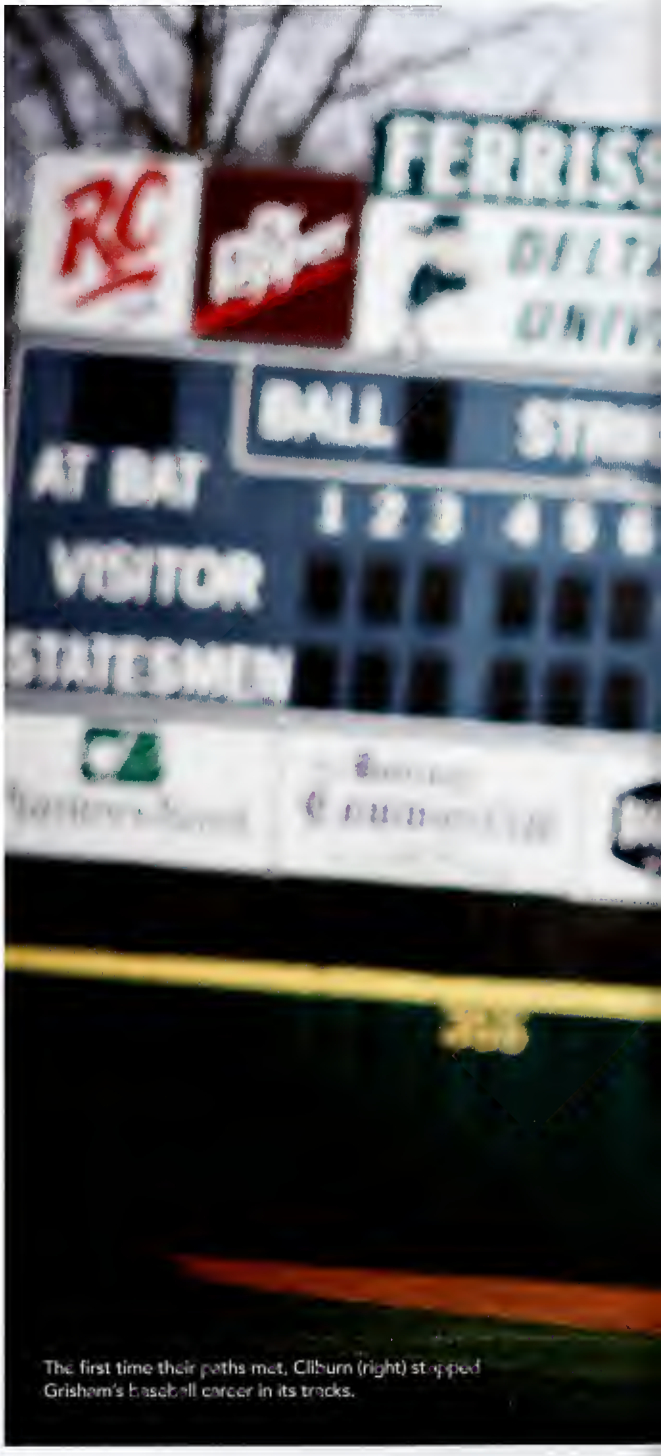
The day John Grisham walked off his field

By John M. Hilpert
Photos by Will H. Jacks, wiljax Photographic Design

This is the story of a college sophomore who had taken many swings and felt the satisfying *crack* of bat on ball thousands of times. He grew up listening to Harry Caray, then Jack Buck, broadcast the St. Louis Cardinal games. His dreams were filled with Tim McCarver, Julian Javier, Lou Brock, and Bob Gibson. And, of course, he imagined himself playing in major league ballparks one day.

It didn't go quite that way for the hero of our story, though things turned out all right in the end. His life changed in a batter's box on a baseball diamond at Delta State College. It was 1974. Here's what happened.

A 1974 pitch by Stewart Cliburn showed John Grisham that his future lay in books, not bats.



The first time their paths met, Cliburn (right) stopped Grisham's baseball career in its tracks.

BALL

of dreams (and into literary stardom)

THE CHARACTERS

The Hero: John Grisham. That's right; it is the John Grisham who went on to fame and fortune as an internationally recognized author. He has written 21 published books; nearly all have reached the number one spot on bestseller lists. Twelve of his works have become motion pictures or television screenplays; one became a television series. He was the most commercially successful novelist of the 1990s.

The Star Athlete: Stewart Cliburn. A member of the Statesmen baseball team in the early 70s, he was drafted, after his junior year at Delta State, in the fourth round by the Pittsburgh Pirates. He eventually played in the major leagues for the California Angels, and today he is a pitching coach for a Triple A franchise owned by the Minnesota Twins.

The Beloved Coach: Dave "Boo" Ferriss. Retired now, the legendary baseball coach at Delta State had 639 victories and a .622 winning record to his credit. Before coming to coach at Delta State in 1959, he had an outstanding record as a pitcher for the Boston Red Sox in the 1940s, and he was a pitching coach for them in the 1950s. He is still revered in Boston, and he is a member of the Red Sox Hall of Fame.

THE BACK STORY

John Grisham was born in Jonesboro, Arkansas, but the family moved to Southaven, Mississippi, where our hero spent his childhood. His brother, Ken, said that John developed a passion for baseball at a young age and that he was an outstanding athlete. He was an excellent point guard in basketball, and he was both a quarterback and a tight end for the Southaven High School football program.

Yet, baseball was the magnet that attracted the Grisham brothers. Ken said, "The whole world was at that ballpark. We went there almost every night either to play or to watch."

John has suggested that his assessment of his baseball skills may have outstripped his level of talent. In 1991 he wrote, "I was a professional athlete waiting to be discovered and signed." More recently he jokingly said, "I was a bona fide prospect, at least in my opinion." He even teases that he was surprised in 1973 – his high school graduation year – that no colleges recruited him to play baseball and no major league teams queued up to draft him.

Despite these setbacks, Grisham enrolled at Northwest Mississippi Junior College in Senatobia. It was the fall of 1973, and he became a member of the Rangers baseball team. These days he admits that actually spent that season on the bench. He also says that at the time he believed that the NMJC coaches were underestimating his potential as a player.

So John Grisham decided to transfer to Delta State College to get a shot at his dream: to play college baseball.

DELTA STATE COLLEGE, 1974

John Grisham arrived at Delta State College in the fall of 1974 with high hopes that he could join the baseball team as a "walk-on." Though he survived a couple of early roster cutbacks, Grisham suspected that he had not secured his spot on the team.

Stewart Cliburn, on the other hand, was a sure bet from the first day. He was a recognized pitcher with an outstanding high school record who threw strikes with blinding speed.

So it was that on a warm day in September 1974 John Grisham, walk-on outfielder, and Stewart Cliburn, scholarship pitcher, found themselves on opposite teams in a Statesmen intra-squad game.

For Cliburn the stakes of this encounter were low. He was assured of a position on the team, and this was just another practice for him. For Grisham it was a pivotal moment in his campaign to earn a place on the roster.

In the third inning – Grisham recalled that he always batted near the end of the nine-man order – the two faced each other with Coach Ferriss, all of the regular players, and the rest of the hopefuls watching. Cliburn was strong and

Both of them remembered that Ferriss said as kindly as he could, "I suggest you forget about baseball and hit the books."

Life Lessons from Boo

In 1974, Boo Ferriss had a conversation with John Grisham about his future in baseball. This is how John recalls it:

BOO: "John, you had trouble with that curveball yesterday."
JOHN: "Yes sir, I thought it was going to hit me."
BOO: "That's why they throw them like that."
JOHN: "I guess so."
BOO: "And you had trouble with the fastballs last week."
JOHN: "Yes sir. They're awfully fast."
BOO: "Well, if you can't hit a fastball and you can't hit a curve, what can you hit?"
JOHN: "A change-up, if I know it's coming."
BOO: "I see. Look, I was once a pitcher, and pitchers can be cruel when they spot weaknesses."
JOHN: "I've never liked pitchers."
BOO: "Well, they show up at every game."
JOHN: "I despise them."
BOO: "Your grades are not too impressive."
JOHN: "Yes sir, I'm sort of drifting right now."
BOO: "I suggest you forget about baseball and hit the books."

JOHN: "I think you're right."
BOO: "Good luck to you."
JOHN: "Thanks, Coach, for the chance."

self-assured. He looked menacing on the mound, as he glared toward each hitter who dared to enter the batter's box.

Grisham says that he tried glaring back at Stewart Cliburn, but in retrospect he suspected that it accomplished nothing other than angering the fastball pitcher. In fact, it crossed Grisham's mind as he stood there that his roommates might actually have a better plan for college life since their greatest challenge seemed to be sorting among dates and social opportunities. He refocused his attention on Cliburn and noticed a scowl that he interpreted as a mean streak.

At this point, the accounts that have made their way across 34 years differ in some details. Exactly how many pitches were thrown is at issue. Whether or not Grisham ever put the bat on the ball is a fact also in dispute. However, there is no argument about two critical pitches and the outcome of the encounter.

In the most generous retelling for John Grisham's part, he actually did smoke a line-drive foul ball past third base and out along the left field foul line. So be it. However, it was the last good news of the day for young Grisham.

Apparently, Stewart Cliburn reached back, at this point, and threw the ball as fast as he could, and Grisham still swears that the 90-mile-per-hour pitch was aimed directly at his head. Neither Cliburn nor Coach Ferriss remembered that instant in time with the clarity that stayed with John Grisham, but neither contradicted the author's recollection. In other words, the details of that day are a little clearer for our hero because it became a truly significant moment in his life.

After a split-second of panic, Grisham pulled his head away from the pitch just ahead of impact. He believed that it may have saved his life. He said he had never seen any pitch with that velocity, and he hoped never to see one again.

Ratcheting up his courage, Grisham took another toehold in the batter's box. He was considerably more wary of what might be coming his way. When the next pitch flew along the same path toward his head, he wasted no time bailing away from home plate and landing squarely on his backside. Almost at once, the umpire shouted, "Strike!"

A curveball had fooled him completely as it broke through the heart of the strike zone.

Grisham still remembers laughter pouring out of both dugouts. He said that after a third strike he returned to the bench and claimed back spasms to avoid any more embarrassment on that day. He was replaced in the line-up.

Coach Ferriss explained, "I believed that if a player who thought enough about the program to tryout didn't make the team, I owed them the courtesy of sitting down with them privately and telling them the bad news and the reasons.

"Many coaches would simply post the results. I would either call them into my office or go to their dorm room. I thanked them for wanting to participate and explained to them that education is important."

On the day of the Delta Sate fundraiser in February, John Grisham (center) and Stewart Cliburn (right) share a laugh with Coach Ferriss as they recall that infamous baseball tryout in 1974.

Grisham recalls that Coach Ferriss met with him and said that if he wasn't comfortable hitting either a fastball or a curveball, there wasn't a great likelihood of success on the field. Both of them remembered that Ferriss said as kindly as he could, "I suggest you forget about baseball and hit the books."

As everyone who has visited a bookstore in the last two decades knows, that encouragement would prove prophetic.

THE AFTERMATH

Stewart Cliburn eventually pitched in 85 major league games over three seasons with the California Angels. In 1985, his best year, he pitched in 44 games, had a record of 9-3, and posted an outstanding earned run average of 2.09. His professional baseball career as a player and coach has lasted nearly 30 years.

As he reflected on the events of 1974, Stewart Cliburn laughed and said, "(Grisham) should have hung in there against the curve. It would not have hurt for long if it had hit him."

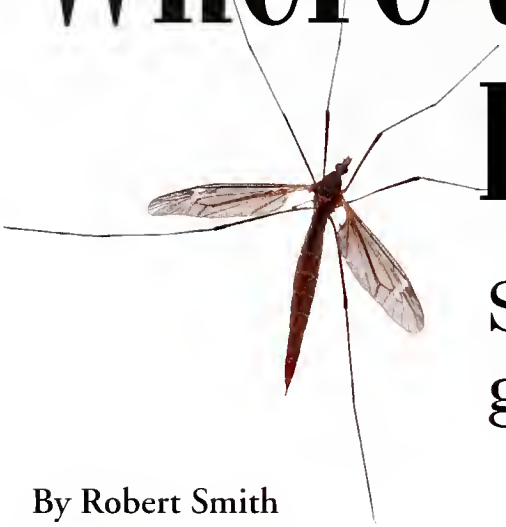
John Grisham, in turn, has never forgotten that Coach Ferriss gave him a chance and then gently pushed him down another path that eventually led to remarkable, international recognition.

He left Delta State College later that same academic year and went with his friends to Mississippi State University where he earned an accounting degree. Then he completed a law degree at Ole Miss and went into practice. By 1984 he was a 28-year-old member of the Mississippi House of Representatives, and during his six years in that body, he began writing his first novel.

The results of that foray into literary life have become legendary. John Grisham is a household name, not just in the United States, but across the world. His work has been translated into 34 languages, and over 100 million of his books are in print.

Yet, with all of his recognitions, awards, and good fortune, he has never forgotten the life-changing moment he had in a batter's box at Delta State College and the gentle man who helped him move past disappointment with kindness and dignity.

Where the rubber meets the road



Science educators help students gain real-world experience

By Robert Smith

Whether he's talking about the science of detecting and killing parasites, or about teaching, or about his administrative duties as chair of the Division of Biological and Physical Sciences, Dr. Barry Campbell is a student of opportunities to enhance the quality of life.

"If they only know how badly you want them to get this stuff," he says, reflecting on his desire to see students excel. He explains that Delta State University, where he has been for nearly a decade, offers small class sizes and close interaction between students and instructors that he finds particularly encouraging.

"I think that's been one of the biggest pleasures of teaching at Delta State," he says, adding that he enjoys helping students explore their ideas and pursue their dreams.

"To me, 'coach' might be a better word to use," he says, describing what it is that he does. "The student has got to be a partner in the process."

Campbell sees his role in that partnership as one of consistently giving sound, clear advice so that undergraduates do a thorough job of preparing themselves to move on from DSU to leading professional schools. However, he is also seeking to enhance the quality of the collegial teaching environment in which students learn.

Dr. Campbell developed his passion for learning as a boy, growing up in western Tennessee, not far from the Mississippi River. His abiding curiosity about parasitology stemmed from his desire to understand what was going on when, at the age of 12, he discovered his dog had a worm. He sought out more than a passing explanation, and later did a high-school science project that involved hands-on research at a meat-packing plant near his home. He still has and makes professional use of photos he took during that humble research project, though he went on to earn a Ph.D. at Tulane University.

Teachers made an important contribution to Campbell's intellectual development, he says, recalling that they cultivated his appetite for books. "I had teachers that were fearless in what they would shove in front of me to read," he says, recalling with a chuckle that he read quickly and would finish books early, giving him free time for youthful mischief.

Campbell is quick to point out that faculty members around him are engaged in important professional work that deserves recognition. He mentions Dr. Malcolm McEwen and the Center for Science and Environmental Education.

McEwen is director of the center, which was founded in 2000 and conducts outreach in a 19-county area. The center provides professional development for pre-service and in-service K-12 teachers, as well as curricular assistance for K-12 education. Approximately 30 schools have been involved in the program with over 10,000 students served since CSEE debuted.

"Here's something with real substance," Campbell says, lamenting that it seems the center gets less attention than it merits. "This is where the rubber meets the road in science education. I'm surprised that bigger fish haven't looked at what he (McEwen) is doing and jumped on it."

> "To me, 'coach' might be a better word to use. The student has got to be a partner in the process."

Campbell explains that the Center for Science and Environmental Education holds out the promise of completely changing the landscape of science education in the Mississippi Delta.

Campbell enjoys finding practical ways for his students at Delta State to engage in

Dr. Barry Campbell, chair of the division of Biological and Physical Sciences, wants to help students pursue their dreams in science.

Other Faculty Research

- Ecotourism in the Mississippi Delta: Insights from Land and Tourism Managers–Alan Barton and Eric Atchison
- Musicians as Athletes–Andrea Cheeseman
- Academic Experiences Abroad: Students Evaluate the Value of Foreign Trade–Robert Johnson, Scott Trapolino and Garry Jennings
- Marketing the Mississippi Delta Blues: Mythmaking, Constructive Authenticity, and Public Memory–Stephen King
- Exploration of the Social, Economic and Demographic Characteristics of the Most and Least Obese States–Edith Cameron McMillen
- Exploring Our World through Interactive Cartography–Subramanian Swaminathan

practical learning activities. He cites previous student work at the Cleveland-Bolivar County Animal Shelter as an example, noting that DSU students were able to check animals brought in at the shelter for parasites, thus helping to interrupt the spread of illness and developing data about the prevalence of parasitic organisms in the Cleveland-Bolivar County area.

He has also been pleased with the learning opportunities to which DSU science students have had access because of Cleveland's mosquito-control program. The program is intended to help protect public health by spraying for mosquitoes (using both trucks and aircraft), and to disseminate information that will help local residents to prevent mosquitoes from propagating in their yards and garages.

"It gave them a chance to start thinking about who they had around them to talk to," Campbell says, recalling that his students had to learn to reach out to others and effectively share scientific information in order to complete their public-education work in the field of mosquito control.

These challenges, and more, are the scientific heights Campbell is preparing his current students to climb.

At Family Science Night at Hayes Cooper Elementary School, DSU science students give youngsters and their parents the opportunity to participate in hands-on science demonstrations.

1940s

1942: Nevin Sledge, of Cleveland, was recently honored when the Exchange Club of Cleveland dedicated the local Freedom Shrine, located at the court house, in his honor.

Cox

1946: Lucille Peel Cox, of Jackson, recently had her memoirs, "Smile With Me," published.

1949: Dr. John C. Merrill, of Columbia, MO, has been honored for 60 years of service to journalism education by the publication of a new Festschrift. Merrill is a professor emeritus of journalism.

1950s

Donald

1954: W.S. Donald, of Southaven, competed in, and won, several events at the 2007 National Senior Olympics in Louisville, KY.

Horace McCool, former DSU Football Coach, of Grenada, was presented the "God's Game Plan" Bible by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

1956: Aubrey Rozell, of Quitman, received the "Real Hero" Award at the Elliott Symposium.

Lee

1957: Dr. Wayne Lee, Jr., of Cleveland, received the "Real Hero" Award at the Elliott Symposium.

1960s

1960: Jet Rogers, of Pensacola, FL, received the "Real Hero" Award at the Elliott Symposium.

1965: Elizabeth Shown Mills, of Hendersonville, TN, has published her 12th book titled, "Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyber Space."

Collins

1966: Linda Floyd Collins, of Cleveland, was named Ambassador of the Year by the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce.

1968: Walter "Bobby" Barr, formerly of Clarksdale, has been named City President of Regions Bank in Greenville and Leland.

1969: E. G. Warren, of Gulfport, qualified for the State Farm Million Dollar Roundtable Award for the second time. Warren also qualified for the President's Club award for Fire Insurance which is presented to the top 50 agents of 17,000 in the country. Warren ranked No. 26.

1970s

1970: Shirley Cartlidge, of Greenville, accepted the Mississippi Valley State University Leadership/ Community Service/Civic Endeavors Award at the Preeminence Awards and Scholarship Gala.

1974: Debra L. Ferguson, of Brandon, was a winner of the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters (MIAL) 2007 awards.

Gainspoletti

Gary Gainspoletti, of Cleveland, received the President's Award presented by the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce.

1976: Dian Capps, of Pontotoc, is a Grenada County Administrator of Life Help Intensive Outpatient Alcohol and Drug Therapist.

Gary Fioranelli, of Cleveland, was elected president of the National Rice Growers Association.

1977: John Marshall Alexander, of Oxford, has been promoted to Chief of the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Mississippi after 25 years as Assistant U. S. Attorney.

Dr. Nelson Little, of Oxford, has been selected as the recipient of North Mississippi Medical Center's 06-07 Golden Tongue Blade Award. Little is a cardiologist with Cardiology Associates of North Mississippi P.A.

1980s

Janoush

1980: Paul Janoush, of Cleveland, received the Kossman Award, the highest award given by the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce.

1982: Celia Aguzzi Manley, of Jackson, is the client services representative with Smith Shellnut Wilson Company.

1983: Mary Frances Bassie Griffin, of Nashville, has accepted a position as training specialist with Echomusic, a Ticketmaster company in Nashville working with artists to know their fan base.

Griffin

Donald Swafford, of Cleveland, has been promoted to assistant vice president in M & F Bank's Cleveland office.

1984: John Walter Gilmer, of Madison, worked as an accounting manager at MS Diversified Corporation, then moved to Medical Assurance Company of Mississippi.

John B. Reed, of Olive Branch, is currently serving as Chief Executive Officer of INTEC Engineering.

1986: Michael Chandler, of Ridgeland, has joined PriorityOne Investment Services as Vice President and Financial Advisor.

Gwen Lee, of Greenwood, was promoted to assistant cashier at the Bank of Commerce.

Hugh Taylor, of Athens, AL, was promoted to Director of Field Sales for Roadway Express.

1987: Ken Purvis, of Southaven, was elected Division President at Renasant Mississippi. Purvis will be in charge of the banking operations for the bank's DeSoto County division.

1988: Major Albert M. Chunn, of Huntsville, AL, recently returned from a third tour of duty in Iraq.

Cummins

Dr. Cheryl Cummins, of Cleveland, is now Delta State's Director of Field Experiences.

1989: Jack W. Callicutt, of Roswell, GA, was appointed Vice President and Chief Financial Officer by Tixvah Therapeutics, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company that focuses on new treatment options to manage central nervous system diseases.

Callicutt

Byron Nichols, of Brandon, competed in the IPF Masters World Bench Press Championships in Schwedt, Germany. He took home the Silver Medal in the 275 lb Class with a bench press of 562 lbs (255 kg) and set a new American and National Record in Milwaukee, WI at the USAPL Masters Nationals Championships. This was his first international competition.

1990s

Angie Howarth and husband, Drew, of Hernando, are owners of Hernando Flower Shop.

Renee Moore, of Cleveland, was the only teacher from Mississippi invited to be part of a national panel of 18 expert teachers who examined the issue of performance pay for teachers.

1991: Stephanie Case, of Hernando, will take the helm as principal of the new Lake Cormorant Elementary School in the Walls/Lake Cormorant area.

Richard Myers, of Nashville, TN, a registered patent attorney, was a guest speaker at the 16th Annual Elliott Symposium held at Delta State University.

Myers

1992: Wayne Britt, of Ruleville, was elected president of the Mississippi Jewelers Association.

Britt

Major Brett Wilkinson, of Shreveport, LA, is a B-52 Electronic Warfare Officer stationed at Barksdale AFB. Wilkinson was recently selected for promotion to Lt. Colonel. He has flown combat missions in Afghanistan and Iraq where he received two Distinguished Flying Crosses for heroism and also the Bronze Star.

Wilkinson

1993: John F. "Jay" Blount, Jr., of Greenville, is working for one of the American corporations that provides support services for the military in Iraq.

Ann Giger, of Cleveland, has been promoted to Director of Donor Relations at the Delta State University Foundation.

Giger

Eunika Stevula Rogers, of Memphis, is an art instructor at Northwest Community College. A recent faculty art show featured her work.

1994: Jennifer Abraham, of New Roads, LA, now serves as the director of the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History at LSU.

Helen Armstrong, of Baltimore, MD, won a scholarship to the MFA program at the Maryland Institute College of Art.

Dr. Ernest Brothers, formerly of Greenville, was the guest speaker for Layman's Day at the Kindling Altar Baptist Church in Greenville.

Brothers

Doug Johnson, of McKinney, TX, was promoted to Regional Sales Director for Texas with American Public Life Insurance Co.

Christy Riddle Montesi, of Boyle, was named director of Career Services and Placement at Delta State University.

Dr. Bettye Henderson Neely, of Grenada, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Institute of Higher Learning, was bestowed an honor at the eighth annual James Herbert White Preeminence Awards and Scholarship Gala at Mississippi Valley State University.

Neely

1995: Clint Tibbs, of Cleveland, had his dissertation accepted for publication at WUNT, a German company that is devoted to academic works in the area of Biblical studies. Tibbs is a member of the DSU faculty.

Tibbs

1996: Tanya McAdory Coogan, of Ashburn, VA, is the new Director of Chapter Development for the Spina Bifida Association, National Office in Washington, DC and was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Therapeutic Recreation Society, a branch of the National Recreation and Park Association.

Dr. Seth Kleinbeck, M.D., of Stuttgart, AR, is a Board Certified Specialist in Family Practice. He is married and has two children. Dr. Kleinbeck currently practices medicine at Hazen Family Medical Clinic.

Kleinbeck

1997: Michael Aguzzi, of Cleveland, received the President's Award presented by the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce.

Aguzzi

Julie Eastburn Katz, of Naples, FL, is a realtor with John R. Woods Realtors.

Katz

Shawn Christopher Mackey, of Cleveland, was appointed assistant director/program specialist within the Division of Career and Technical Education by the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges.

Mackey

Michele McCain, of Brandon, is an associate with an energy and environmental practice team in a Jackson firm.

1998: Robert "Buck" Burns, of Memphis, recently became a Certified Financial Advisor.

William "Billy" Davis, of Batesville, won six journalism awards from the Mississippi Press Association, including first place awards for Best Sport News Photo and Best Feature Photo. He is a reporter for *The Panolian* newspaper in Batesville.

Dr. Susan Lee, of Indianola, is Director of P-16 Initiatives with the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning in Jackson.

Lee

1999: Jamie Duncan, of Broken Arrow, OK, received a Masters of Science in nursing from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and is employed as a nurse anesthetist for Associated Anesthesiologists, Inc.

Darlene McCune, of Natchez, is a teacher at Robert Lewis Middle School in Natchez. She also produces and directs Little Theater plays in her home town.

Dr. Shannon Myers, of Lake Village, AR, completed his Doctor of Physical Therapy at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. He has been accepted to Medical School at Saint Matthews University where he will start in September.

2000s

Ervin

2000: Jim Ervin, of Boyle, was named Assistant to Athletic Media Relations at Delta State University.

Jay Hubbard, of Clarksdale, graduated from St. Matthew's School of Medicine in the Cayman Islands.

Joe

Lylla Cooper Joe, of Madison, has been named investment manager for Mississipi Technology Alliance in Jackson.

Adam Kirk, of Grenada, is the senior associate attorney with the law firm of Gore, Kilpatrick & Dambrino, PLLC.

Amy Minga Kirk, of Grenada, is a speech-language pathologist and director of rehab of Mid South Rehab in Oxford.

Magnolia Rose Band

Karen Williams McGough, of Mansfield,TX, is a member of the Magnolia Rose Band and has recently released a CD of Contemporary Christian Music.

Misty Weaver, of Ridgeland, was the emcee for the Air Force concert at the Bologna Performing Arts Center.

2001: Jake Michael Bellipanni, of Memphis,TN, has joined Community Bank in DeSoto County as a vice president and lender.

Will Sledge, of Cleveland, is Assistant Vice President of Planter's Bank.

Umfress

Jason Umfress, of Cleveland, has been accepted to the Ph.D. program in Student Affairs at Clemson University.

2002: Leighton Janes, of Brandon, is an environmental scientist for the Department of Environment Quality in Jackson.

Renee Steadman, of Cleveland, is now the Executive Director of Sav-A-Life of Cleveland.

Kelly

2003: Marilyn L. Kelly, of Mound Bayou recently won the election for the honorable position of Circuit Clerk in Bolivar County. She was employed at Delta State University where she served as an administrator in Retention and International Student Affairs.

Ronnie Sanders, of Greenwood, is manager of Advanced Fitness Center.

2004: Laura Ruth Brown, of Flowood, has been named branch manager of the bank's Terry Road location.

Elizabeth Haire Carpenter, of Pearl, is an intern with Region and Mental Health Services in Rankin County while completing her Masters of Arts in Counseling.

Travis Carpenter, of Pearl, is the associate pastor at First Methodist Church in Brandon with the Acts 29 ministry while working toward his Masters of Divinity degree.

Cooper

Yancy Lee Cooper, of Cleveland, has been named director of Marketing at Rankin Medical Center.

Jessica Epting, of Olive Branch, has been accepted to the nursing program at Northwest Mississippi Community College.

Farris

Jeffrey Farris, formerly of Brandon, is the Assistant Alumni Director at Delta State University.

Emily Gilliland, of Greenwood, is the service manager for the Mockingbird Bakery in Greenwood.

Jill Morgan Holland, of Starkville, is the Executive Assistant to the CEO of the Olinger Group, a market research firm.

Ozborn

Leslie Ozborn, of Cordova, TN, received a masters in Sports Management from Eastern Kentucky University. Ozborn is now manager of one of the largest Gold's Gym in the country.

Rodgers

Leigh Ann Graham Rodgers, of Southaven, completed her masters degree in K-12 Educational Leadership and is employed at Horn Lake High School.

Stringer

John R. Stringer, of Montrose, an honors graduate in Commercial Aviation, was recently upgraded to Captain for ExpressJet Airlines (AKA Continental Express). At age 24, Stringer is currently the youngest Captain in the company. John currently lives in Houston, TX.

Vondenstein

Brandi Vondenstein, of Crowley, LA, is Delta State University's new assistant softball coach.

2005: Courtney Lange Blevins, formerly of Batesville, graduated from the University of Central Arkansas with an M.S. degree in Speech Language Pathology. She is currently a Speech Language Pathologist at the Bristol Regional Speech & Hearing Center in Bristol, TN.

Kimberly Long, of Cruger, is a market analyst with Viking Range in Greenwood.

Heath Ingram, of Durham, NC, is a perfusionist at Duke University Hospital.

Wright

Katie Wright, of Collinsville, TX, was chosen as the 2007 "All-Golden Circle Softball Team's Coach of the Year." Katie is teaching junior high math and is the high school softball coach for Dawson Independent School District.

2006: Christopher Hodges, of Cleveland, is an advertising representative for *The Bolivar Commercial*.

Hodges

2007: Dr. Edward K. Gore, and his son **Rhett Gore**, both received their diplomas during the Fall Commencement. Edward Gore completed a degree in biology that he started in1958 at Delta State College. He attended Delta State for three years but left to complete his medical degree. Edward recently returned to Delta State to finish the classes necessary to complete his Bachelor of Science degree in biology in time to graduate with his son, Rhett. Dr. Gore has been practicing medicine for 44 years. Rhett received his Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology.

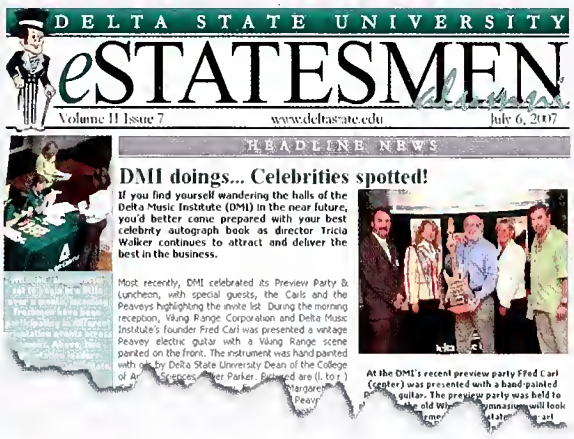
Gore

Michael McKnight, of Southaven, is a VIP Host with Hollywood Casino in Tunica.

Rusty Rayborn, a native of Tylertown, joined SouthGroup Insurance in Cleveland.

Marguerite Pease Sunderland, recently completed her business administration degree program. She first entered Delta State Teachers College in the fall of 1950, but left after her first year. Congratulations to Marguerite for returning to Delta State and finishing her college education 57 years later.

Sunderland


DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
eSTATESMEN
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HEADLINE NEWS
DMI doings... Celebrities spotted!
If you find yourself wandering the halls of the Delta Music Institute (DMI) in the near future, you'd better come prepared with your best celebrity autograph book as director Tricia Walker continues to attract and deliver the best in the business.
Most recently, DMI celebrated its Preview Party & Luncheon, with special guests, the Carls and the Peaveys highlighting the invite list. During the morning reception, Viking Range Corporation and Delta Music Institute's founder Fred Carl was presented a vintage Peavey electric guitar with a Viking Range scene painted on the front. The instrument was hand painted with oil by Delta State University Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Walker Parker. Pictured are (l. to r.) Margaret Peavey
At the DMI's recent preview party Fred Carl (center) was presented with a hand-painted Peavey guitar. The preview party was held to the old Whitten gymnasium will look like after it's transformed into a state-of-the-art

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• • •

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Position Available

Director of Alumni Affairs. The Delta State University Alumni Association is seeking a Director of Alumni Affairs. The director is responsible for the day to day operation of the National Alumni Association. Please mail resume or recommendations to:

Delta State University
Human Resource Office
Alumni Search Committee
Kent Wyatt Hall 234
Cleveland, Mississippi 38733

For more information on the position visit the HR website at http://ntweb.deltastate.edu/hr/employment.asp

DSU alumni enjoy a reunion in Tybee Island, Georgia

From left to right - Bill LaForge (Oak Hill, VA); Jim Marsh (Tybee Island, GA); Lolo Lubiani (Greenwood); Russell Stewart (Anguilla); Bobby Stroud (Olive Branch); Chip Yelton (St. Augustine, Fl); Mike Neyman (Hernando); Bradley Smith (Wesson); Gene Newman (Ellicott City, MD); Archie James (Marietta, GA); Butch Scipper (Marks); Bill Greenleaf (Brandon). Front center: Steve Puckett (Louisville).

In Memoriam

All deaths occurred in 2007 unless otherwise indicated.

Janice Hogan Allen '75, of Jackson, on September 2.

Margaret Green Boeth (friend of DSU), of New York, NY, on October 1.

Michael Bodden (attended), of Moss Point, on September 12.

Vivian Davis Clyton '49, of Houston, TX, on September 18.

Gertrude Whitworth Burt Conner '39, of Shelby, on July 11.

Everett Henry Crapps '78, of Mobile, AL, on September 24.

Becky Crook (attended), of Jackson, August 28.

Richard Curtis '79, of Natchez, on October 6.

Melinda J. Delahoussaye '78, of Cleveland, on August 12.

Matthew John Durn (attended), of Cleveland, on September 29.

James Henry Gardner, Jr '47, of Greenwood, on October 30.

Jamie Viner Giddis '84, of Collierville, TN, on October 5.

Shelia Nelms Bellipanni Glass '74, of Biloxi, on July 10.

Elvin Cecil Graham '42, of Saltillo, on September 5.

Rev. William Lee Hodges (attended), of Petal, on September 4.

David Lavealle House Jr. '63, of Benoit, on September 9.

Michael F. Jackson (attended), of Flowood, on September 6.

Rachel Briggance Malone Jackson (attended), of Gallatin, TN, on November 18.

John T. King '70, of Tunica, on August 12.

Sylvester Lee '80, of Clarksdale, on October 20.

Pearl Mathews Lewis '53, of Byhalia, on August 6.

Myrtle Lowery '39, of Cleveland, on August 21.

Johnny C. Meeks '76, of Greenwood, on August 2.

Barbara Bole McCool (friend of DSU), of Grenada, on October 12.

Donna Kane McHenry, former College Professor of Music at Delta State, of Hendersonville, TN, on November 16.

Reed Andrew Morganti (attended), of Benoit, on September 14.

Pam C. Myers '74, of Greenwood, on July 1.

Debbie Nowell (attended), of Cleveland, on August 13.

Sam L. Odom (attended), of Jackson, on July 23.

Betty J. Pearson (attended), of Indianola, on July 19.

Peggy Womack Poole '59, of Round Rock, TX, on October 28.

Alice Graham Rambin '63, of Natchez, on July 24.

Gregg Rayner Roberts (attended), of Jackson, on September 13.

James V. Roberts (attended), of Jackson, on June 30.

Leonard Elliot Rubenstein '63, of Memphis, TN, on November 22.

John L. Shaw '56, of Palm Beach Gardens, FL, on November 6.

Doss M. Shropshire, Sr. '67, of Jackson, on November 17.

Elsie Caveness Smith '36, of Marietta, on May 2.

Julia Tipton (attended), of Tupelo, on August 27.

Earl P. Tolbert, Jr. '51, of Ruleville, on August 3.

Lyndell P. Watkins, Sr. former Associate Professor of Music at Delta State, of Cleveland, on November 13.

Jimmy Ray "Taco" Wilkerson, Jr '98, of Greenville, on November 12.

Frank Young Jr. '49, of Auburn, AL, on October 8.

Lieutenant Colonel Bryce C. Ruth Jr. 1948–2007

Lieutenant Colonel Bryce C. Ruth Jr. '70, of Whitehouse, TN, on September 20. Serving under the Judge Advocate General's Corps as a U.S. Army Reserve, Ruth was known for his outstanding accomplishments throughout the community. He began a career by receiving a B.S. in Accounting from Delta State University and went on to receive his Juris Doctor from Memphis State School of Law in 1979. He practiced law for 19 years in Whitehouse, TN finding his niche in life. With his passion for law, Ruth supported the Tennessee Bar Association and was past President of Sumner County's Bar Association. He was active throughout the community serving as the former City Judge for Cross Plains, TN and President of the White House Area Chamber of Commerce. Ruth attended the White House First United Methodist Church and devoted his time as an Administrative Board Member. Ruth received many honorable awards such as the United States Army Meritorious Service Medal for his wonderful accomplishments. Ruth is survived by his wife Martha, two children, his brother, Miller, and parents, Mr. and Mrs. B.C. Ruth of Cleveland.

Wedding Bells

All dates are in 2007 unless otherwise indicated.

Madesta "Dusti" Gunter to **Micah Nathaniel Carrington '00**, of Ridgeland, on August 18.

Clark

Tara Chandra Clark (attending) to **Jason Joel Cumberland '96**, of Brandon, on April 21.

Elizabeth Rae Hollowell '08 to **Joseph Gary Crews '00**, of Cleveland, on October 13.

Weed

Erica Lynn Weed '05 to **Jeremy Ryan Flanagan '04**, of Shaw, on January 20.

Gianini

Holly Gianini '06 to John William Ray, of Cleveland, on November 3.

April Horne '99 to Caine Little, of Cleveland, on October 20.

Jana Vay-Marie Hoffman '06 to **Joseph Adrian Jenkins '06**, of Merigold, on October 20.

Lindsay Nicole Harkins '06 to **Thomas Alexander Jennings III (attended)**, of Oxford, on November 3.

Kelly

Courtney C. Kelly '05 to John Orians, of Memphis, on March 10.

Lange

Courtney Paige Lange '05 to Phillip Nathan Blevins, of Bristol, TN, on August 11.

Anna Katherine Long '00 to Richard Newell Graham, of Union City, TN, on September 8.

McAdory

Tanya Elizabeth McAdory '96 to Robert Coogan, of Ashburn, VA, on April 21.

Whitney Lynn Chennault to **Jeremy Blake McCreary (attended)**, of Ripley, on June 30.

Sara Bridget Anderson '01 to **John Pake Michael (attended)**, of Greenville, on August 18.

Ann Marie Redditt '06 to **Jeffrey Alan Myers, Jr. (attended)**, of Cleveland, on September 15.

Tanya Nicole Odom '04 to William Randell Naramore, of Oxford, on July 28.

Shelley Powell Howarth '99 to Steven Wayne Moseley, of Birmingham, AL, on August 18.

Gambrel

Carolyn Gambrel to **Kyle Rasco '05**, of Opelika, AL, on March 31.

Melanie Ann Rocconi (attended) to **Christopher "Chris" David Reed '05**, of Jackson, on October 29.

Brooks

Vanessa Brooks '07 to **Jonathan Wayne Stark '06**, of Flowood, on June 23.

Christina Jill Waycaster to **Joshua Phillip West '06**, of Tupelo, on August 18.

MILES AWAY

5,153 Miles Away: Riley Coatie Sr, Riley Coatie Jr and Barry Bays '85 at an autograph session of the Cognac Blues Festival in Cognac, France.

1,400 Miles Away: Jamey '76 and Gary Gainspoletti '74, of Cleveland, in Boston,MA to attend the LPL Financial Convention.

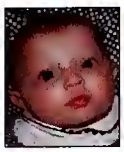
2,147 Miles Away: Stephanie Shea Moulder '95 at San Francisco, CA in front of the Golden Gate Bridge.

5,230 Miles Away: Earl "Sonny" '66 and Mary Jo (Brock) Burton '65 in front of a church in Vienna, Austria.

Where has the road taken you?

Share your travels with us.
Let us see where you're reading the Delta State alumni magazine.
Email your photos to alumni@deltastate.edu.

Baby Statesmen


Ables

Arnett

Barlow

Bright

Carr

Colotta

Cooper

Cox

Cummins

Dorgan

Edgar

Rivers Isabella to M/M Paul Barlow '92 (Ashley Olexy '91), of Brandon, on May 10.

Reed Alexander to M/M Rodney Glenn Batts '99 (Scottie Moore '98), of Cleveland, on November 10.

Sadie Elizabeth to M/M Josh Bright '02 (Sandra Lynn Lightsey '01), of Batesville, on April 4.

Carlsey Powers to M/M Mike Gant (Leigh Anne Burchfield '01), of Merigold, on October 27.

William Troy to M/M William "Chad" Carr '99 (Elizabeth Odom '98), of Ridgeland, on August 3.

Michael Cannon to M/M Van Colotta '88 (Jennifer Paige Hallford), of Cleveland, on July 6.

James Landry to M/M Van Cooper '96 (Christie Landry), of Cordova, TN, on October 3.

Walker Allen to M/M John Cox '96 (Deborah Pittman), of Cleveland, on July 1.

Sarah Grace to Dr/M Christopher Marascalco Cummins '97 (Eliana A. Vallejo), of Church Hill, TN, on May 17.

William Timothy to M/M William "Billy" Joseph Dorgan '02 (Rebekah Haire '01), of Hattiesburg, on October 10.

Matthew Adam to M/M Matt Edgar '03 (Carrie Edgar), of Yazoo City, on September 5.

Caroline Grace to M/M Jeffrey Fioranelli '01 (Tricia Bailey '01), of Cleveland, on June 26.

Zoe to M/M Joshua Paul Robin (Lisa Fioranelli '00), of Oceanside, CA, on February 27.

Stephen Marshall "Trey" to M/M Stephen Fleming, Jr '00 (Brandi Gail Cox '00), of McCarley, on August 18, 2006.

Alyssa Rose to M/M Jim Kindhart (Annette Marie Ford '87), of Vicksburg, on May 24, 2006.

Anna Patton to M/M Justin George '00 (Dana Bradshaw '06), of Cleveland, on June 25.

Madelyn Michele to M/M Joseph Gillespie '03 (Makita LaShell Donerson '01,'03, '04), of Forney, TX, on August 23.

Zane Darrington to M/M Darry (D.D) Hardy '93 (Allison Calwell '95), of Little Rock, AR, on September 19.

Laney Elizabeth to M/M Kevin Stone (Aimee Hart '89), of Hattiesburg, on September 4.

Adam Grice & Aden Graham to M/M Shannon Lewis (Jana Hathcock '00), of Sallis, on June 27.

Julia Weber to M/M Dave Glasgow (Jamie Howard '01), of Brandon, on January 23.

Destiny Monice to M/M Stephen E. Howell '98 (Dorothy M. Averill '99), of Kailua, HI, on August 2.

George Kimble to M/M Brian Washington (Kim Kelly '97), of Acworth, GA, on March 20.

Gabriel (Gabe) Scott to M/M David Neal Kiihnl '02 (Jamie Free '02), of Canton, on December 28, 2006.

Caroline Adams to M/M Adam Kirk '00 (Amy Minga '00), of Grenada, on September 27, 2006.

Anna Franklin to M/M Paul Brian Henry (Lee Ann Krause '95), of Friendswood, TX, on March 22.

Austin Seals to M/M Robert Seals Love, III '01 (Melissa Stoner '04), of Goodman, on July 10.

Laney Elizabeth & Lacey Renae to M/M Jeff Lusk '99 (Stephanie Yawn '01), of Shaw, on January 31.

Blake Alan to M/M Alan McAfee '01 (Stacy Beale '01), of Cordova, TN, on July 22.

Matthew Harber to M/M Matt Williams (Emily Harber Montgomery '01), of Yazoo City, on March 10.

Mya Grace to M/M Rick McCarty (Rayna Netherland '07), on August 1.

Analise, adopted by M/M Russell Wayne Peeples '92 (Lisa Lynn Nash '92), of Carrollton, in November.

Zachary Miles Alan to M/M George Thomas Arnett (Jordana Phipps '02), of Emington, IL, on August 25.

Abigail Elizabeth to M/M Richard P. Poole '89 (Connie Marie '89), of Ocean Springs, on November 15.

Anderson Ryan to M/M Dennis Ryan Short '96 (Heather Dunning '99), of Cleveland, on September 25.

Parker Wilson to M/M Will Sledge '01 (Heather Williams), of Cleveland, on March 28.

Breland Helaine to M/M Matthew Breland Sledge '04 (Christan Dill '03), of Cleveland, on October 5.

Zachary Joseph to M/M Michael Swartz (Melissa McKellar '94), of Southaven on May 9.

Fioranelli

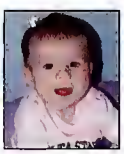
Fleming

George

Gillespie

Glasgow

Hardy


Henry

Hobson

Howell

Kindhart

Kiihnl

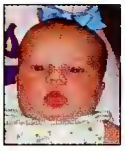
Kirk

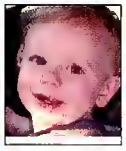
Lewis

Love

Lusk

McAfee


McCarty


Peeples

Peeples

Poole

Robin

Will Thomas to M/M Tommy Peeples (Heather Susie Smith '97), of Tupelo, on October 5, 2006.

Joshua Clark to M/M Craig Taylor (Jennie Smith '94), of Southaven, on March 28.

Anna Grace to Dr/M Hubert Dwaine Taylor, II '00 (Tiffany Scott '00), of Warren, OH, on June 15.

Zavion Corshun to M/M C.W. Weaver Sr. (Cherriea A. Thomas '04), of Robinsonville, on July 31.

Caroline Bennett to M/M Allen B. Towles '03 (Callie Sellers '02), of Cleveland, on August 17.

Meredith Kate to M/M Stacy Kevin Ables (Paula Turner '99), of Southaven, on August 7.

Christopher Landon & Brandon Wells to M/M Joel Tyler '80 (Stacy Tyler), of Tupelo, on May 3.

Landon Eric to M/M Robert Vargas '98 (Tricia Aguzzi '99), of Cleveland, on August 17.

Lauren Elizabeth to M/M Jon Hobson (April Wilkerson '99), of Courtland, on April 10.

Beau Benjamin to M/M Chris Willis '99 (Tara Beausoliel '02), of Florence, AL, on August 18.

Sledge

Stone

Swartz

Taylor

Taylor

Towles

Tyler

Washington

Weaver

Williams

Willis

Complete the form below to become an active member of the DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!

Class of or years attended _____

Name: _____
For our tax records, please use your full legal name.

Nickname: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Employer: _____

Job Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone (H): _____ (W): _____ (C): _____

Please check the type of membership that best suits your needs:

☐ 1 year ($20 single, $30 joint) ☐ Life ($400 single, $600 joint)

I would also like to join the following alumni groups:

☐ Accounting ($10) ☐ Aviation ($5) ☐ Music ($5)

☐ Art ($5) ☐ Black ($5) ☐ Nursing ($5)

☐ Athletic ($10) ☐ Family & Consumer Science (H. Ec.) ($5)

Total amount enclosed: _____

☐ Check ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard

Card #: _____

Name: (exactly as it appears on card) _____

Signature: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Life dues can be paid in installments of $50 each year.

Make Checks payable to: DSU Alumni Association
Mail to: Box 3104, Cleveland, MS 38733

SHOW YOUR PRIDE IN DSU

Purchase a logo car tag!

Alumni Update

What better way to let your classmates know where you are and what you are doing than through the "Alumni Updates?"

Tell us about yourself: Recently married? Taken a new job? Been promoted? Changed addresses? Welcomed new children?

Name _____

Maiden Name _____

Address _____

Phone(s): (H): _____ (W): _____ (C): _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Graduation Year or Year attended: _____

Date of Birth _____ E-mail address _____

Here's my update: _____

_____

_____

_____

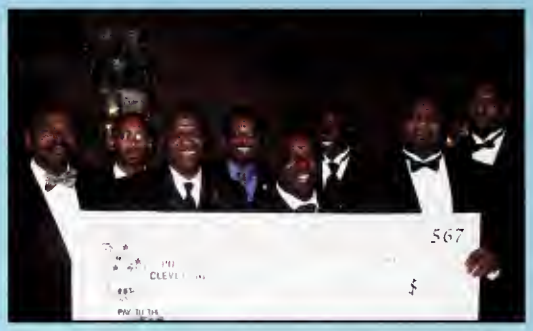
_____

_____

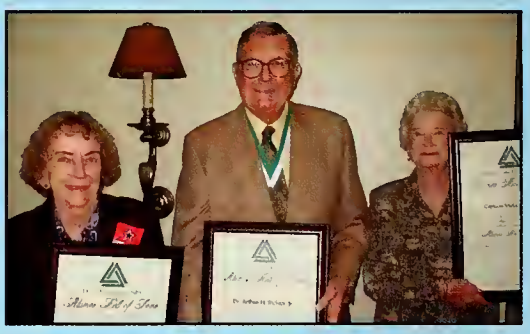
Mail to: Alumni Office, Box 3104,
DSU, Cleveland, Mississippi 38733
or Fax to (662) 846-4713 or e-mail to alumni@deltastate.edu

Spring 2008

Alumni Happenings



Alumni presented a $10,000 check to the African American Scholarship fund during Homecoming weekend.



Alyce Richardson '52, of Cleveland, Dr. Arthur Richter '43, of Greenwod and Capt. Viola Sanders '41, of Greenwood were inducted into the inaugural Alumni Hall of Fame.

Little Rock Alumni Chapter Officers: Chris Simmons '01, Jane Benton '79 and Phillip Griffin '83.

Oxford Chapter Meeting (pictured L to R) Vontese Farmer '93, Peggy Tubertini '90, Ruth Ann Robbins '94, Lori & Cliff Blaylock '92, and Peyton Warrington '92.

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662.846.4844 or www.bolognapac.com
Camp Dates
Creative Artists' Theatre: June 1-8
MSAI Broadway: June 1-28
MSAI Core Arts: June 8-21
Summer Arts Plus I: July 7-12
DMI Camp: July 14-19
Summer Arts Plus II: July 21-26

JOHN GRISHAM
on Books, Baseball & 'Boo'

See page 18 for Alumnus John Grisham's visit to campus.

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Cleveland, MS 38733

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